

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated substrate polypeptide and an optionally included tag sequence for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), which begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Currently Amended) An isolated substrate polypeptide and an optionally included tag sequence for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), which begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. - 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) An isolated mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), which has an amino acid sequence identity of at least 90% or higher to [(the)] a a substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13, of claim 5 and which retains the specificity for ADAMTS-13 which begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1, or b) a substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13, which begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type VWF in SEQ ID NO: 1.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, or the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9, further having a tag sequence attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal.

12. (Previously Presented) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11, wherein the tag is selected the group consisting of proteins, peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

13. (Previously Presented) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11, wherein the tag is for immobilization on a solid phase.

14. (Previously Presented) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 13, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for measuring ADAMTS-13 activity in a subject, which comprises contacting a mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 7, with plasma obtained from a normal subject, followed by analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments to make a control; and contacting said mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 with plasma obtained from the subject, followed by analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments in a similar way and making a comparison with the control.

16. (Withdrawn) A high throughput method for measuring the activity of ADAMTS-13 in plasma from subjects, which comprises employing a mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 7.

17. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, or the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9.

18. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9.

21. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11.

22. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 12.

23. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 13.

24. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 14.